

**Serial No. 10/826,646**

**Art Unit: 1751**

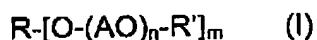
**In the Claims:**

Please enter the following amended claims in the application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

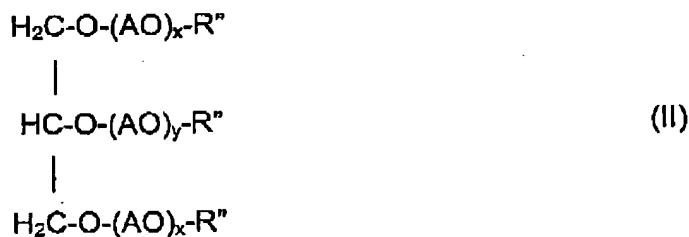
Claims 1-35 (Cancelled)

Claim 36 (Previously presented): A process for treating textile fibers comprising contacting the fibers with an aqueous composition containing a compound of formula:



wherein R is an at least monofunctional, saturated or unsaturated, alkyl group having from at least 2 up to 36 carbon atoms, m is a number from 1 to 16, and n is a number from 1 to 500, with the proviso that the product of n and m has a value of at least 1, AO independently represents  $C_2H_4O^-$ ,  $C_3H_6O^-$  or  $C_4H_8O^-$  and R', independently of each other, represents a hydrogen atom or a sulfur-containing group selected from the group consisting of  $OC-CH_2-SO_3M$  and  $SO_3M$ , M is a cation having at least one charge, and, wherein, at least one R' is the sulfur-containing group, whereby, pilling of the treated fibers is improved.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The process of claim 36, wherein, the aqueous composition contains a compound of formula:



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wherein R", independently of each other, represent a hydrogen atom or a sulfur-containing group selected from the group consisting of OC-CH<sub>2</sub>-S-SO<sub>3</sub>M and SO<sub>3</sub>M, and, wherein, at least one R" is a sulfur-containing group, AO, independently of each other, represents C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O-, C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O- or C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O-, the indices x, y and z, independently of one another, are 0 or their sum has a value of from 1 to 500, M is a cation having at least one charge, and wherein if x, y or z is zero, its corresponding substituent R" is a hydrogen atom, and mixtures thereof.

**Claim 38 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 36, wherein, in formula (I) the product of n and m is a number from 10 to 100.

**Claim 39 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 36, wherein, in formula (I) the product of n and m is a number from 30 to 80.

**Claim 40 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 36, wherein, AO is exclusively C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O.

**Claim 41 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 36, wherein, AO is exclusively C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O.

**Claim 42 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 36 wherein the compound of formula (I) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

**Claim 43 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 36 wherein the composition has a pH of from about 4 to 10.5, at a temperature of about 21°C.

**Claim 44 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 36 wherein the composition has a

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pH of from about 5 to 9, at a temperature of about 21°C.

**Claim 45 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 36 wherein the compound of formula (I) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 25 to 45% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

**Claim 46 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 37, wherein, in formula (II) the sum of  $x + y + z$  is a number of from 10 to 100.

**Claim 47 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 37, wherein, the sum of  $x + y + z$  is a number of from 30 to 80.

**Claim 48 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 37, wherein, AO is exclusively  $C_2H_4O$ .

**Claim 49 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 37, wherein, AO is exclusively  $C_3H_6O$ .

**Claim 50 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (II) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

**Claim 51 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 37 wherein the composition has a pH of from about 4 to 10.5, at a temperature of about 21°C.

**Claim 52 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 37 wherein the composition has a pH of from about 5 to 9, at a temperature of about 21°C.

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**Claim 53 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 37 wherein the compound of formula (II) is present in the composition in an amount of from about 25 to 45% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

**Claim 54 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 36 wherein the textile fibers comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of wool fibers and cotton fibers.

**Claim 55 (Previously presented):** The process of claim 37 wherein the textile fibers comprise at least one member selected from the group consisting of wool fibers and cotton fibers.